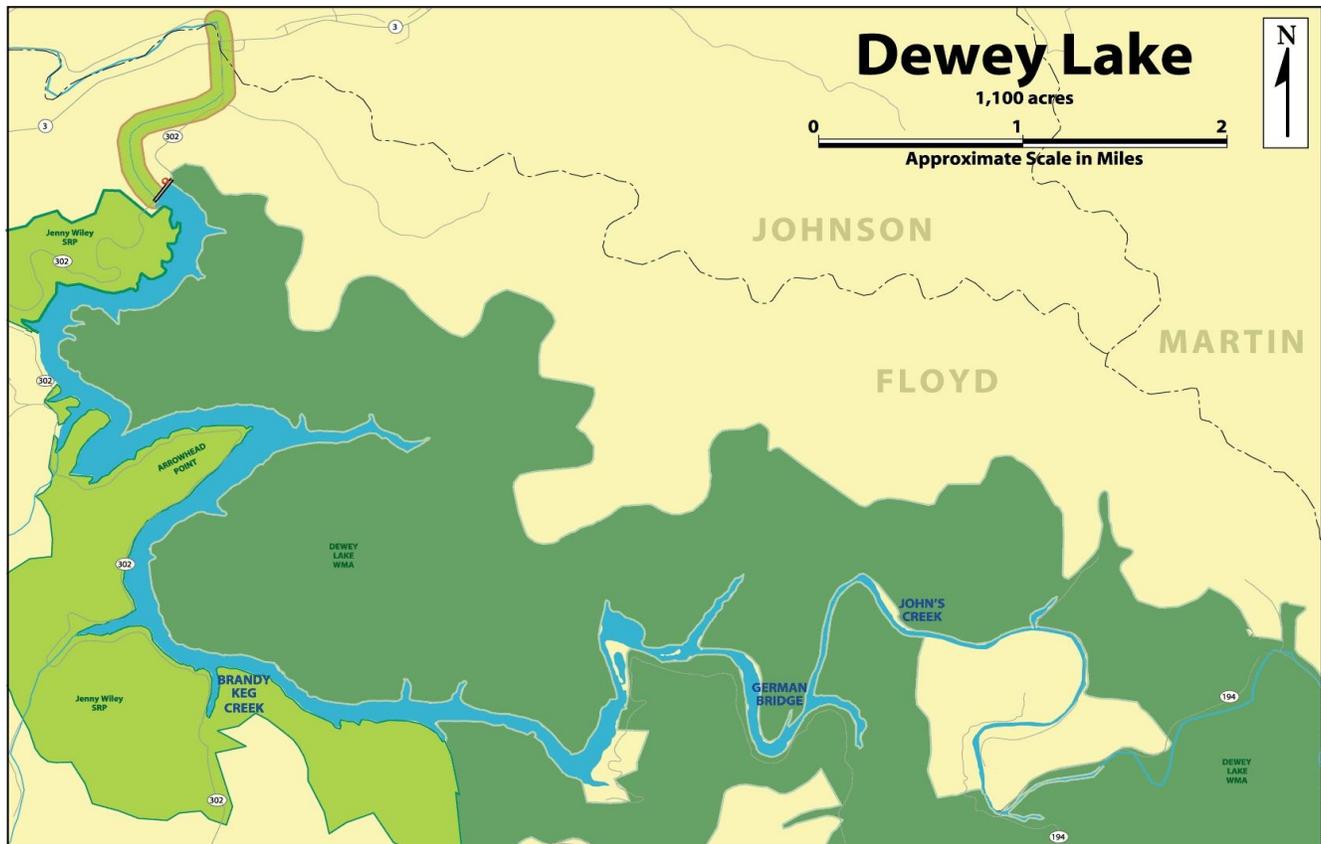


Dewey Lake Bass Assessment 2019

Dewey Lake is a 1,100-acre multipurpose reservoir on Johns Creek. This lake, located in Floyd County, has quietly become a popular fishing destination for largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment.

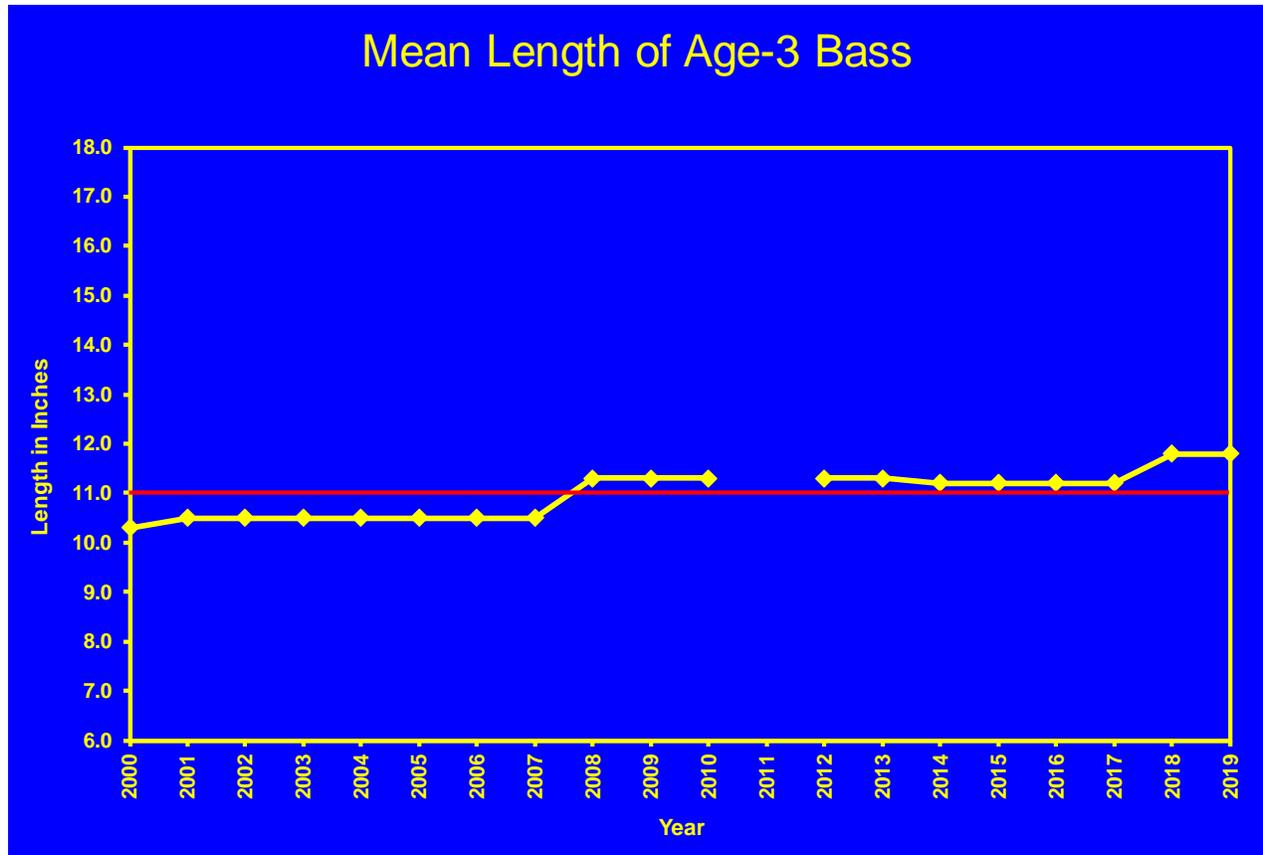
Please see the [Sportfish Assessments page](#) for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.

Please note that the minimum size limit for largemouth bass on this lake is 15 inches.



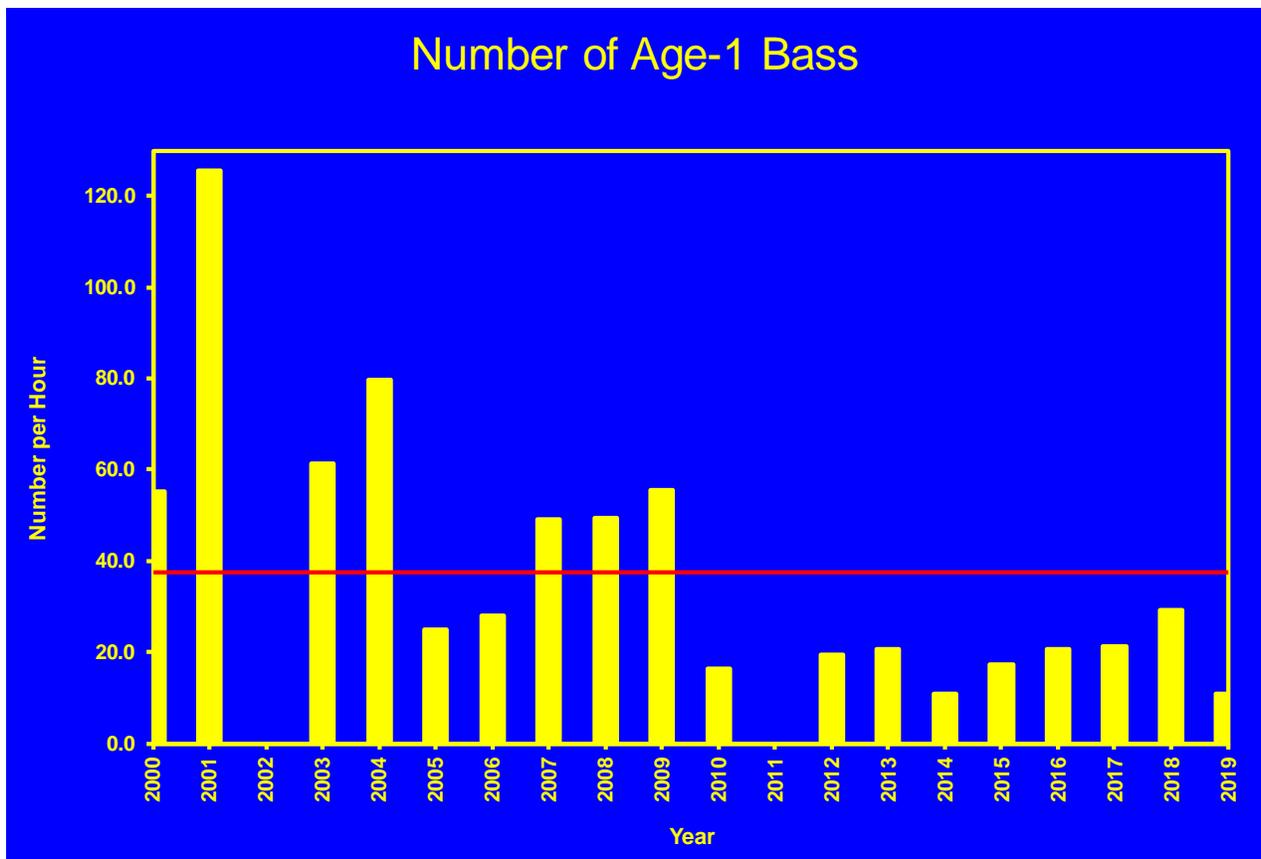
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Dewey Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 11.0 inches since 2000 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of this size, this is considered to be “poor” growth for largemouth bass. The most recent age data (2018), however, shows a slight increase at 11.8 inches. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns.



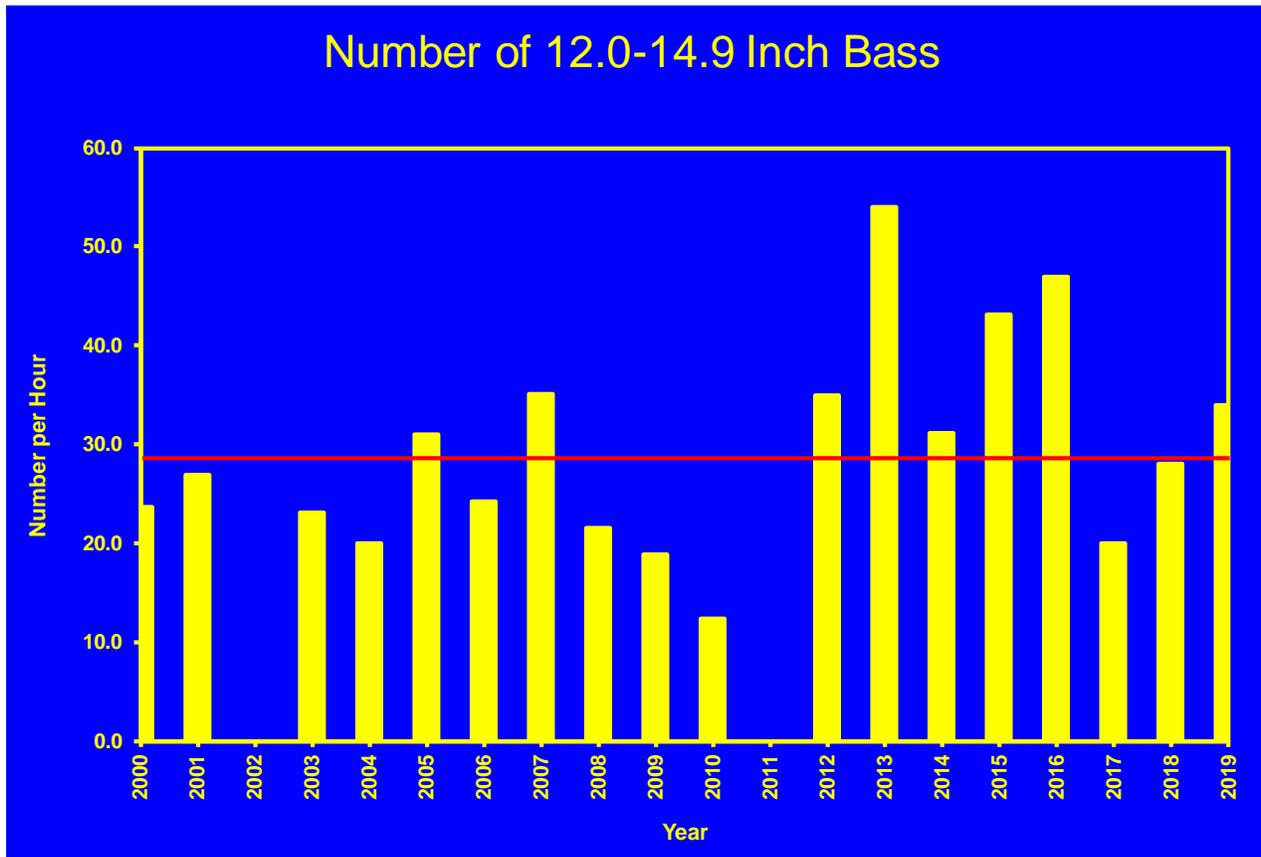
Parameter 2 – Number of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the electrofishing catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn that occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Dewey Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged 38.6 fish per hour of electrofishing (see red line). When compared to other lakes in this size range, this is considered a “good” age-1 catch rate. Since 2010, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass has been low and supplemental bass stocking has occurred in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 to aid numbers. These stockings have helped to maintain stability in the overall largemouth bass population.



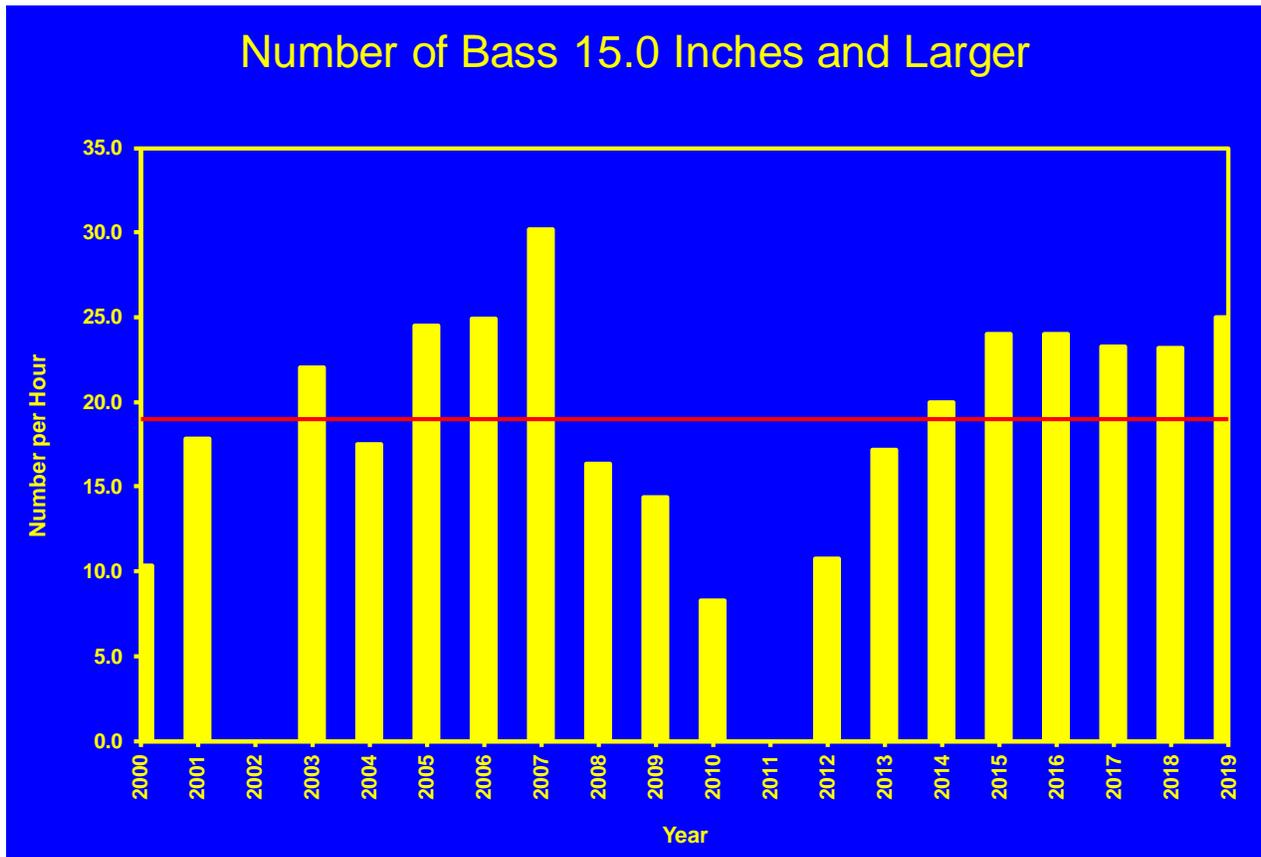
Parameter 3 – Number of 12.0- to 14.9-inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0- to 14.9-inch largemouth bass has averaged 29.4 fish per hour over the years (see red line), which gives Dewey Lake a “good” rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. In 2016 and again in 2019 the catch rate for this size range of bass received a rating of “excellent”. Over the last four years, Dewey Lake has maintained an average of 32.3 fish/hour, dipping only slightly in 2017. This level of increase means good numbers of fish are reaching legal harvest size and should be stable for years to come.



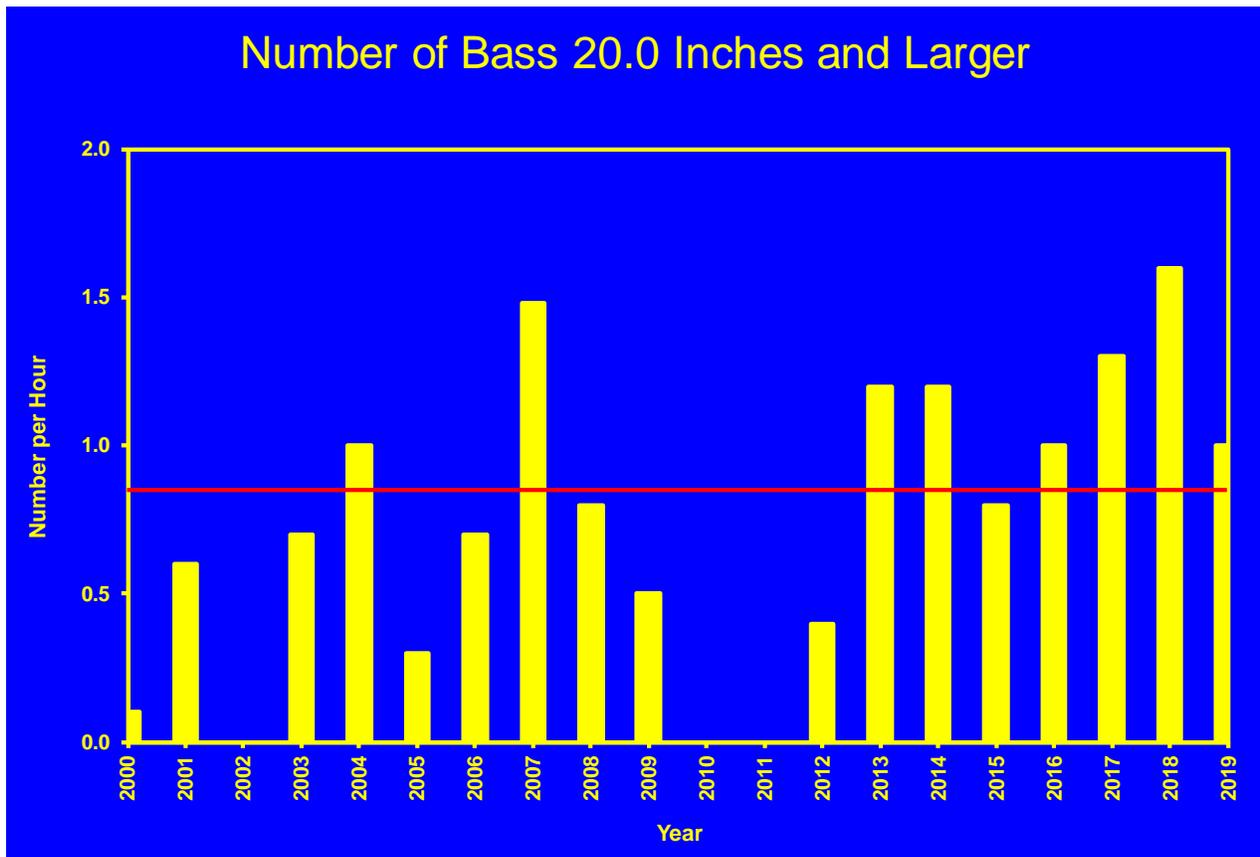
Parameter 4 – Number of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass at Dewey Lake has averaged just over 19.6 fish per hour of electrofishing (red line). Compared to other lakes, this is a “good” catch rate for this size group. Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass at the lake have been steadily increasing since 2010. This is good news for anglers as these are fish that may be legally harvested. It is also noteworthy that growth rates have remained stable as these numbers have increased indicating that the fishery as a whole is stable and growing.



Parameter 5 – Number of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 0.8 fish per hour at Dewey Lake (red line). This catch rate gives the lake a “good” rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. From 2016-2018, the catch rate for fish 20.0 inches and larger showed significant increases averaging 1.3 and receiving an “excellent” rating. This would put 20.0 inch or larger fish above average and increase the potential to catch a trophy fish at present.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Dewey Lake has averaged an assessment score of 13.8 and received a “good” rating (red line). The largemouth bass population at this lake has been fairly consistent in most categories except for recruitment. The assessment score steadily increased between 2012 and 2016 and has remained stable since then, representing an overall healthy fishery. The success of the fishery can be attributed to stocking efforts and habitat improvement projects aimed at improving recruitment. Dewey Lake also has a healthy forage base from zooplankton to shad helping to maintain good growth rates.

